

5. (Once Amended) A method for increasing high density lipoprotein levels in a mammal comprising the step of administering a nutritional composition comprising dextran.

6. (Once Amended) A method for increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammal comprising the step of administering a nutritional composition comprising dextran.

7. (Once Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500,000.

8. (Once Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

9. (Once Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

Please add newly-submitted Claims 10-24 as follows:

10. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500,000.

11. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

12. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

13. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500,000.

14. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

15. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

16. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500,000.

17. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

18. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

19. The method according to Claim 5 wherein the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500,000.

20. The method according to Claim 5 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

21. The method according to Claim 5 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

22. The method according to Claim 6 wherein the dextran is a high molecular weight dextran having a molecular weight above about 500,000.

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23. The method according to Claim 6 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of inulin, fructo-oligo saccharide, galacto-oligosaccharides, or xylo-oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

24. The method according to Claim 6 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a lipid source which is rich in monounsaturated fatty acids and poor in saturated fatty acids.

REMARKS

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-9 have been amended and newly-submitted Claims 10-24 have been added. This Preliminary Amendment does not add new matter. Applicants also note for the record that this Preliminary Amendment is not being made for purposes of patentability and/or to narrow the claims. Instead, the Preliminary Amendment is being made to allow the claims to comport to U.S. format and/or to add new claims. Accordingly, Applicants do not disclaim any subject matter in view of this Preliminary Amendment.